Starred Question 174 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th December 1994 and state what would be the modalities for the formation of Expert Committees to look into various problems affecting export commodities under your Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Part (c) of the reply to the Starred Question 174 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th December, 1994 referred only to the representation on the Tobacco Board of tobacco growers, dealers, exporters and manufacturers. There is, however, no mention about the formation of Expert Committees.

Ban on Indian Books in Bangladesh

3111. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report published in the Economic Times dated 20th February, 1995 under the heading 'Indian books banned at fair' is correct;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been taken up with the Bangladesh Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether such a ban can be imposed under the new WTO regime;

(e) whether Government would take up the matter at the forum; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The report under reference is not correct in as much as the terms and conditions of the particular book fair in Bangladesh prohibit sale or display, inter-alia, of any foreign books.

(b) and (c) The matter has not been taken up with the Bangladesh Government because the organisation of the fair and the imposition of the ban is by the Bangla Academy and not by the Government of Bangladesh.

(d) to (f) The questions do not arise as there is no ban on import of Indian books into Bangladesh.

Role of STC and MMTC in New Economic Policy

3112. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the use and need of keeping both MMTC and STC having similar trade activities after the new liberalised economic policy; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Consequent upon the decanalisation of import and export of a number of items hitherto chanalised through STC & MMTC, the Government have been reviewing the need to re-orient both the Corporations in a manner consistent with a liberalised economy and a competitive environment. Both the Corporations themselves have also been implementing plans and strategies to adapt to the current environment.

Dumping of Products by Foreign companies in India

3113. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some foreign companies are dumping their products like steel, films etc. in India;